

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1386

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EAST BELIN VOLKSKAMMER DEPUTIES UNDER NEW GDR
ELECTION LAW

1. BERLIN CDU CAUCUS CHAIRMAN LUMMER HAS ATTACKED NEW
GDR ELECTION LAW AS EFFORT TO " UNDERMINE" QUADRIPARTITE
STATUS OF ENTIRE CITY OFBERLIN. IN STATEMENT ISSUED
JUNE 25 JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AS MEMBER OF BERLIN
PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIN VISITING U.S. FOR BICENTENNIAL
CELEBRATIONS, LUMMER FOCUSED ON FOLLOWING SENTENCES
FROM NEW LAW ON ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLES' REPRESENTATIONS
OF THE GDR PUBLISHED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND THAT DAY:

" THE VOLKSKAMMER CONSISTS OF 50 DEPUTIES (ABGEORDNETE).
THE CAPITAL OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, BERLIN,
SENDS(ENTSENDET) 66 OF THESE." LUMMER CLAIMED THAT THIS
FORMULA BLURS DISTINCTION IN PREVIOUS LAW, STEMMING FROM
1963, BETWEEN MEMBERS OF VOLKSKAMMER FROM GDR PROPER
WHO ARE ELECTED AND INDIRECTLY SELECTED MEMBERS OF
VOLKSKAMMER SENT FROM EAST BERLIN.

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2. LUMMER WAS CONSIDERABLY QUICKER OFF MARK IN CRITICIZING GDR LAW THAN OTHER WEST BERLIN OBSERVERS. INITIAL TAGESSPIEGEL REACTION, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS TO HEADLINE THAT " NEW GDR ELECTIN LAW RESPECTS SPECIAL STATUS OF EAST BERLIN. Z PAPER NOTED THAT VOLKSKAMMER PRESS OFFICE HAD TOLD WEST GERMAN DPA CORRESPONDENT THAT FORMULA IN NEW LAW WAS TO BE UNDERSTOOD " IN THE PREVIOUS WAY," THAT IS, THAT NO STATUS CHANGE WAS IMPLIED. SENAT HAS ALSO BEEN RELUCTANT TO FIND FAULT IN NEW FORMULA AND HAS THUS FAR AVOIDED TAKING PUBLIC POSITION WHILE INFORMALLY ASKING ALLIES WHETHER WE HAD ANY PARTICULAR REACTION, FRENCH HAVE ADVISED US THAT THEIR EMBASSY IS INTERESTED IN LEARNING OTHER ALLIES VIEWS BUT THAT IT HAS APPARENTLY NOT FORMED ITS OWN CONCLUSIONS.

3. PASSAGE IN 1963 LAW WHICH HAS NOW BEEN SUPERSEDED IS AS FOLLOWS:"1) 434 DEPUTIES(ABGEORDNETE) ARE ELECTED FOR THE VOLKSKAMMER.2) THE CAPITAL OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC , BERLIN, IS AUTHORIZED TO SEND (ENTSENDEN) 66 REPRESENTATIVES(VERTRETER) TO THE VOLKSKAMMER." WE SEE SEVERAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO FORMULAE. IN OLD LAW THERE WAS FAIRLY SHARP DISTINCTION BETWEEN 434 DEPUTIES WHO WERE TO BE ELECTED AND 66 EAST BERLIN REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE TO BE SENT BUT NOT NECESSARILY " ELECTED". IN NEW LAW, VOLKSKAMMER IS TREATED AS A SINGLE UNIT COMPOSED OF 500 DEPUTIES, 66 OF WHOM ARE " SENT" BY EAST BERLIN. IT IS SOMEWHAT LESS CLEAR IN NEW VERSION, THEREFORE, WHETHER OR NOT EAST BERLIN MEMBERS OF VOLKSKAMMER HAVE DIFFERENT TITLES AND WHETHER METHOD OF THEIR SELECTION IS DIFFERENT. LUMMER WOULD ACCORDINGLY SEEM TO HAVE SOME BASIS FOR ARGUING THAT GDR HAS ATTEMPTED TO BLUR SPECIAL STATUS OF EAST BERLIN MEMBERS. ON OTHER HAND, THIS STRIKES US AS RATHER SMALL SLICE FROM SALAMI. DESPITE MARGINAL DIFFERENCE, ESSENTIAL POINT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THAT GDR STILL FELT REQUIRED TO MAKE DISTINCTION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF VOLKSKAMMER WHO COME FROM EAST BERLIN AND OTHER DEPUTIES. FORMULA USED SUGGESTS COMPROMISE WHICH OFFERS SOMETHING TO GDR VIEWS OF STATUS OF EAST BERLIN AS INTEGRAL PART OF GDR, BUT FALLS FAR SHORT OF

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EASTERN DOCTRINAL PURITY. CAREFUL EAST GERMAN READER BROUGHT UP ON LINE THAT EAST BERLIN IS INTEGRAL PART OF GDR MUST WONDER WHY LAW DOES NOT STIPULATE HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE SENT TO VOLKSKAMMER FROM, SAY, ELIZIG. WE WOULD VIEW THIS AS ESSENTIALLY POSITIVE SIGN THAT GDR, AND PRESUMABLY SOVIETS, WHO ALMOST SURELY WERE CONSULTED, STILL FEEL THAT CERTAIN VESTIGES OF QUADRIPARTITE STATUS OF ENTIRE CITY MUST BE RETAINED.

4. WE WILL PASS THIS PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS, WHICH WE
UNDERSTAND CONFORMS CLOSELY TO INITIAL WORKING-LEVEL
GERMAN THINKING TO ALLIED MISSIONS AND WOULD BE INTER-
ESTED IN ANY ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE.
GEORGE

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